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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries - Shipping
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports
Second session
Geneva, 18 March 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Port modernization and development
4. Training and technical assistance
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

At its second session, in July 1994, the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries - Shipping recommended that a second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports be convened by the UNCTAD secretariat in early 1996.* At its seventh (pre-sessional) executive session, the Trade and Development Board took note of the Standing Committee's report and endorsed the recommendations.

The basic idea of convening the Intergovernmental Group of Experts was to increase the involvement of the various actors in the port industry in the working methods of UNCTAD. The aim is to generate concrete and innovative discussions that will benefit the work to be carried out by the Standing Committee -- namely the examination of factors which can contribute to efficient management and sustainable development of ports and related port services in order to foster competitive maritime transport services and to strengthen capacities for trade. Delegations to past meetings have included government officials responsible for ports, representatives of port authorities, terminal operators from the public and private sectors, international and regional port organizations and port users.

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with past practice, the Intergovernmental Group may wish to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above has been drawn up by the UNCTAD secretariat. The Group of Experts will have five working days to complete its business. Normal meeting hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The secretariat believes that the objectives of the Group would be best served by a spontaneous exchange of views among the experts from all countries in an informal setting, followed by a joint effort to draft recommendations on the items under consideration.

It would be useful if the Group's substantive deliberations could be completed by noon on Thursday, 21 March to allow ample time for preparation of the draft report and recommendations which should be adopted on the afternoon of Friday, 22 March. Thursday afternoon, 21 March and Friday morning, 22 March will be devoted to round-tables on quality management and information technology.

Item 3: Port modernization and development

Document : *Port organization and management: report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/6)*, chapter I.

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* See TD/B/41(1)/9 - TD/B/CN.4/39, annex I, para. 11.

The Group is expected to review organizational factors that can contribute to a more efficient and effective port system and promote development of trade. Ports must offer reliable services to ships and cargo, including documentation and customs procedures to allow for the timely flow of goods through the transport chain. Ports can be a crucial element in developing a competitive advantage for a country, and governments and port authorities need to adopt suitable port policies to allow the country to reap the benefits of globalization of trade.

The reports prepared since the previous session of the Group of Experts in October 1993 as well as the Monographs on Port Management developed in cooperation with the International Association of Ports and Harbors and the Ports Newsletter will be reviewed. Recent UNCTAD port publications are listed in the annex.

Countries will be invited to report on their experience in port organization and management in order to supplement the views presented by the secretariat and to assist the Group to draw up general and specific recommendations to governments. The Group could also prepare a plan of action with priority items for the rest of the 1990s.

Item 4: Training and technical assistance

Document : *Port organization and management: report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/6)*, chapter II.

The Group will review the activities carried out by the secretariat in the field of training and technical cooperation in ports. Since the previous session, ten management seminars have been delivered by the secretariat to some 170 port managers. The UNDP-funded project for rehabilitation of Somali ports is on-going and experts are currently working with local managers in the ports of Berbera and Bosasso in Somalia.

The Group may wish to consider how more ports could be made to benefit from the research already done through the organization of policy seminars.

Item 5: Other business

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports.

The report of the Intergovernmental Group will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board at the earliest opportunity.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SCHEDULE OF WORK

Monday, 18 March	a.m.	Plenary Opening of the session Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of agenda and organization of work Item 3: Port modernization and development Informal group Item 3:
	p.m.	Idem
Tuesday, 19 March	a.m/p.m.	Idem
Wednesday, 20 March	a.m.	Plenary Item 4: Training and technical assistance Informal group
	p.m.	Idem
Thursday, 21 March	a.m.	Idem
	p.m.	Round-table on quality management of port services
Friday, 22 March	a.m.	Round-table on information technology in ports
	p.m.	Plenary Item 3: Item 4: Item 5: Other business Item 6: Adoption of the report

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Sessional document:

Port organization and management: report by the UNCTAD secretariat, (TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/6)

Recent UNCTAD port publications:**

Strategic port pricing (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/2)

Comparative analysis of deregulation, commercialization and privatization of ports (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/3)

Financing port development (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/4)

Potentialities for regional port cooperation (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/5)

Marketing promotion tools for ports (UNCTAD/SHIP/494(12))

Freeport development: the Mauritius experience (UNCTAD/SHIP/494(13))

Sustainable development strategies for cities and ports (UNCTAD/SHIP/494(14))

Ports Newsletter No.11, March 1994

Ports Newsletter No.12, November 1994

Ports Newsletter No.13, May 1995

Ports Newsletter No.14, November 1995

** Listed for information only.